

The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1913.

GIVE IT TO THE RICHMOND-WASHINGTON HIGHWAY.

Governor Mann is, no doubt, perplexed by the multitude of petitions for the \$10,000,000 Federal appropriation for the improvement of public mail roads in this State, which is at his disposal, but The Times-Dispatch ventures to suggest to him that the sum can be expended with best results upon the Richmond-to-Washington Highway. That road is best which yields a maximum of service to a maximum of people, and such would be the thoroughfare that would link the capital of the nation with Virginia's capital.

The Richmond-to-Washington Highway penetrates seven counties. Not only would an improved road benefit the people of these counties in decreased cost of haul and easier transportation, but they would undoubtedly profit from the long-distance travelers on the road through the sale of food and supplies. It must be conceded that the passenger traffic on a road between Washington and Richmond would be far greater than that on any of the other roads which seek the Federal aid to be disposed of by Governor Mann. It is evident, therefore, that the people of the seven counties which would be traversed on that route would receive a far greater benefit from the road than the people of any other counties could receive.

Moreover, although a fair mileage of good roads has been constructed on or near the proposed Richmond-to-Washington Highway, the section it would traverse is noted for its slowness in responding to the good roads movement. The roads of Stafford, for example, are almost non-navigable. If the highway is constructed, it will be a compelling object lesson to the people of these backward counties, who have not seen enough of improved highways to be convinced of their immense value. Educated as to the advantages of such roads, the people of the various communities would begin to improve unimproved roads and make byroads passable. It is an established fact in Virginia that where one good road is built other good roads will begin to group around it, so that the first good road really acts as a sort of demonstration road. The Richmond-to-Washington Highway would serve in that capacity for seven counties.

This capital-to-capital thoroughfare would unquestionably yield a maximum of service to a maximum of people. Of all the roads seeking aid, it would be most traveled; of all of them, it would most develop the section it traversed. The construction of the highway would bring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the State; it would be far more potent in that particular than any other road in Virginia.

If Governor Mann shall decide to give the sum now in the Federal Treasury for the purpose of road improvement to the State to the Richmond-to-Washington Highway, The Times-Dispatch believes that such assistance would insure the construction and completion of that great chain of good roads. The impetus that such a sum would impart to the movement for the highway would be irresistible; with such a considerable addition to the fund already raised, the whole amount needed could shortly be subscribed. Let Governor Mann remember that in the case of the Richmond-to-Washington Highway he would be aiding the construction of a permanent road, for the organization which was formed to secure that road has provided that a certain percentage of all money subscribed shall be set aside for maintenance. That, so far as we know, is a feature which the Richmond-to-Washington Highway alone in this State possesses—a consideration that we trust will appeal to the practical sense of Governor Mann.

NOT INTERVENTION, BUT MEDICATION.

In international affairs nonintervention is the rule; interference is the exception. The right of intervention is not to be exercised save in extremely exceptional cases, in which the conditions demanding interference must be such as to render any other course impossible. International precedents prove that in the overwhelming majority of instances intervention has produced results wholly contrary to those it was intended to remove.

The wisdom of international experience counsels President Taft to resort to intervention only as an unavoidable procedure. His disregard of jingo demonstrations for American financial interests is sanctioned by the most patriotic considerations, if the United States is forced to intervene, it is possible that the army sent to enforce our mandate will never be withdrawn from Mexican soil.

The conquest of Mexico by the United States would be a national disaster. This nation would have nothing to gain and much to lose if it should assume control of Mexico. Consider that of Mexico's 15,000,000 population, more than three-fourths are illiterate, and an even greater per cent could never be absorbed into our civilization. The

Mexicans possess no conception of American institutions, are an alien people with alien traditions, could never be assimilated, and for untold generations could not be governed under our institutions. We should have to shoulder a fearful Mexican problem for many decades, and, in the meantime, a great standing army would have to be maintained in order that Mexico's 700,000 square miles of territory, inhabited by a hostile people, could be policed.

The jingoes who clamor for intervention do not take into account the immense cost that such procedure would entail upon us—a cost with no resultant compensation.

Yet if the extremity is reached, the United States cannot escape the obligation that is laid upon it by the Monroe Doctrine. If anarchy does not subside in Mexico, and if European protest increases, this nation will have to meet its peculiar obligation. It cannot benefit from the Monroe Doctrine without living up to the duties it imposes. Intervention, it must be repeated, is an extraordinary remedy; it cannot be invoked until the last reasonable hope of every other solution has disappeared. That is the policy adopted by the President. "If intervention comes," declares the New York World, "it will come because Mexico has compelled it, not because the United States desires it; but it will be complete and effective. Mexico as a nation will have committed suicide."

It is not too late for mediation. That has always been the most effective and the most successful method of pacification. Mediation is the only equitable and reasonable remedy. It has solved complex international disputes, and it can solve internal controversies. If Mexico has not completely gone mad, it will realize the power of mediation; for if the United States is brought into Mexico, there it will remain, and Mexico will surrender its nationality to become a mere dependency.

UNOBSTRUCTED STREETS.

The Administrative Board took a wise step in ordering a strict enforcement of the ordinances against street and sidewalk obstruction by contractors and builders. The action resulted directly from the application of a contracting firm for more street space on which to store building materials. This firm desired to take in all the surrounding neighborhood in addition to the area at present used. The city streets were to be occupied as storage yards for material which is arriving too soon for immediate use in the building, already delayed. The suggestion that the contractors hire storage room where it would not interfere so decidedly with public comfort was so logical that we are not surprised that the board wondered why the necessity and wisdom had not been previously made plain to the firm by police action.

This is a rather more emphatic case than usual of a tendency to regard the streets as adjuncts to private undertakings. Other violators of the ordinance should be checked up sharply for spreading their yards over the streets. The public owns the highways, maintains them, tries to keep them clean, and expects to use them for general convenience and transportation. If one man usurps a part of the roadway, he selfishly trespasses on all the other citizens. Inasmuch as he pays no extra taxes for such purposes, nor rental to the city, it is a favor that he has no moral or legal right to expect.

This naturally does not mean that builders are to be forbidden any legitimate use of the streets during construction. Richmond is growing too fast to put any such hindrance in the way of development. But it does mean that the space to be occupied shall be strictly limited by the actual physical necessities of the work, and not be extended for storage purposes. Incidentally, a stricter enforcement of such a rule would help materially in keeping the streets in cleaner shape.

But if the board desires to be perfectly just in this matter of street use, it might well urge the repeal of the city ordinance permitting the extension of showcases three feet onto the sidewalk in downtown districts. We think this is a permanent usurpation of part of the public highway that is equally as unjust as that by contractors. Last summer there was an agitation to widen the sidewalks on Broad Street by reducing the width of the roadway. We judge that three feet could be added by taking away the glass showcases. On Main and Broad Streets traffic congestion is daily more awkward. Have shopowners the right to increase it for their private advantage? The board should keep consistently at work to make the streets of Richmond belong to the citizens of Richmond.

EXPENSIVE WATER.

From now till the first of June is our national "dood season." Despite an open winter the down-rush of melted snow and spring rain from millions of square miles of land into channels that cannot possibly hold such sudden vast torrents will devastate the territory. There is no chance about this inundation period. It is a natural condition. The water will fall to the earth and it must flow off. It will take heavy toll of property and life as it flows. What are we going to do about it?

To a conservationist, or to just a plain man who uses his brains, the folly of not beginning a comprehensive scheme for taking care of our surface water and preventing floods is becoming yearly more emphatic. Concretely, it takes form in the juxtaposition of an item of \$6,000,000 damage by the January flood of the Ohio, and the item of \$6,000,000 to be spent on Mississippi River improvement. We expect to spend in one year in isolated spots the amount that a single small flood cost. The time has come for a country this size to show a bit more sense in its expenditures.

The big flood on the lower Mississippi last year cost over \$50,000,000. The average annual damage on the

Ohio and its tributaries is estimated at \$50,000,000. A commission in Pittsburgh finds that the floods on the upper Ohio are increasing in frequency and severity each year. That city pays toll to the amount of about \$2,000,000 a year. The total cost must approach \$100,000,000 per annum. Does Congress expect to harness a natural phenomenon of this vastness by the expenditure of some \$10,000,000 a year, in sporadic, piecemeal dribbles on the "pork barrel" principle? Do "human interest" pictures of swamped houses, levee crevasses, and inundated counties get us anywhere?

The Panama Canal is almost finished. The Republicans claim it as one of the chief glories of the past decade of their power. Why should not the Democrats tackle the next great constructive engineering feat to make this quarter of the globe more habitable? A great system of levees, flood reservoirs and irrigation ways, swamp drainage, and reclaimed lands would be a priceless memorial of the Wilson regime.

Collier's Weekly points out that a plan for the annual appropriation of \$50,000,000 and the formation of a board composed of the chief of army engineers, directors of the Geological Survey and reclamation services, chief forester, and a civil, a sanitary and a hydro-electric engineer by the President, has been introduced by Senator Newlands. We have before stated that the splendid mechanism of brains and equipment that built the canal could be wisely used for this great end. The figures show that it would be an investment returning hundreds of per cent profits. Let us build on rock, not sand, hereafter.

FOR EVERY KIND OF EDUCATION.

If an outside critic of Southern social conditions, say an intelligent Englishman who knew the facts, were asked what the chief aim of the new South must be, he would probably answer, education. Even the race problem finally depends on education. It is, therefore, with pleasure that we read of the plans now making for the Conference on Education in the South, to be held in Richmond this April. The best aspect of these plans is that no small technical view of education is being taken. Anything that shapes the consciousness of the individual to better himself against the forces of his environment is education. It begins when he is a few hours old and lasts until he leaves this life. It comprises every activity, from the lowest of making a living to the highest of living. The school is an essential part of the process, not the whole process.

The appointment of a day for a conference of ministers takes cognizance of this broader education. The modern conception of religion more and more regards training for life in this world as of much importance as training for life in the next. Certainly, all that can be done in preparation for any hereafter must be done now. The preacher is just as much an educator as the professor. A program that enables him to tell and to lead of the relation the church bears to social problems should be a step forward for Virginia out of that infamous forty-first place in educational ranks. The country church and the country school are the two homes of society. The country church is fundamentally interested in social service, health, recreation and morals, and these are all aspects of education. Such a conference on these topics should help both the church and the school.

The idea of extending the conference to include business men and farmers is in keeping again with the modern theory of social relations. No longer does the good business man or the good farmer just grow. He is taught. For this reason, if for no other, these classes should keep in touch with education, to learn of its aims and to keep it informed of what the commercial and agricultural interests desire from the system. The use of texts in which the country child is instructed by examples framed in the forms and dealing with the objects to be used in its future activity is one illustration of how education and the farmer must co-operate. We suggest that a specific recognition of mothers and women might be made a part of the conference, if not already provided. Let the plan take in all those who share in the hope of a finer generation to-morrow.

A meeting of the State Democratic Committee is just one motion after another. "There is a Bath County in Kentucky. We should be pleased to know the name of the old-time citizen of that balliwick who won sufficient distinction by taking a bath to justify the naming of the county in honor of the important event," says the Montgomery Advertiser. There is a Bath County, with its Hot Springs, in Virginia, to which the whole world comes for its bathing.

May every man and every maid today have his or her Valentine prayers fulfilled!

Possession of a pocket electric light by any male person over twenty-one years of age shall be prima facie evidence that said owner goes home at night in such a condition that without aid of light aforesaid he could not locate the keyhole of his domicile.

Usually the man who is always "rising to a point of order" is a man who has beforehand loaded up with a pint of liquid disorder.

Now since the State Democratic Committee did not decide the contest as to whether Woodrow Wilson was born in Augusta or Cumberland County, let the South Richmond Democratic Club do its duty.

It is a fact usually forgotten that Abraham Lincoln's grandfather was a native of Rockingham County, Va.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

What's the Use? I thought that I might buy a car and zip around the countryside. I went to see an agent and he took me for a nice long ride. Some of the news got noised around, and fifteen agents called on me. And took me out in brand new cars, their points of excellence to see.

This thing went all year around, and really, folks, it was immense. I toured all over half the State without a nickel of expense. Why should I own a touring car? I am not missing any fun. I can go riding all the time with agents who would sell me one.

From the Hickeyville Clarion. William Tibbitts, our popular and congenial groceryman, says he would trust Philander Higgins any further than he could throw a bull by the tail. However, Tibbitts is some bull thrower when he gets started with a little hard cider.

Anson Johnson is going to put a steam heating plant in his house. What is the use of heating steam when it is not any?

Uncle Ezra Harkins never wears any socks or neckties, and his children never know what to give him for Christmas.

Miss Anastasia Tibbitts, who has recently returned from a conservatory of music, expects to sing at the Ladies' Aid social next Thursday evening, but the ladies are not advertising it, as they wish a large attendance.

A new specialist is thinking of settling in Hickeyville, but he will settle to death if he does. There is nothing the matter with the nerve of anybody in this town that we know of. Hank Tumms, who said he would eat his hat if Wilson was elected, now claims that he hasn't got a hat. He has worn a cap for twenty years.

Other day, and he said, "Hod, what would you like on your face?" Hod replied, "I would like a little skin on my face, please."

Village Constable Ezra is trying hard to get a clue on the culprit who broke into William Tibbitts' refrigerator last week and took a half dozen eggs. As there is a charge of grand larceny against him, the constable is thoroughly disguised so that no one should know him. He disguised himself by buying a new cornucopia pipe to take the place of the one he had smoked since Cleveland was elected the first time, having won the same on an election bet. The constable has a blue sifter in the lockup on suspicion. Everybody is acting suspicious. So as to be looked up and boarded at the expense of the village for three or four weeks, which is considered a snap shot now.

Hod Peters, who has the gallus the other day laughing at a joke in Hod Peters' almanac, and now he don't look a bit out of the chair. Hod Peters and Hank Tumms were "cane rakin'" around the county fair circuit all last week. Hank took along a dozen of his wife's doughnuts to use for rings. Before they went Jed Peters, who has a head for a head of one of the canes with a sledge hammer, but was unsuccessful. He says the general public had a fat chance to win a cane. Ezra Harkins' cousin died out in the West last week, and Ez says his death was quite unexpected, as the family expected up to the point that the Governor would pardon him.

The rudiments of poker. Who bluffs a hand and gets the pot may live to bluff and win it not.

A card in time seems fine. The man who laughs last stacks best. The insignificant pair gathers no moss. Discretion is the better part of poker. A little full house is a dangerous thing. A player is known by the chips he keeps. A card in need is a card indeed. There are just as good cards in the deck as ever was caught.

When the gods would destroy they first laugh at them. Never count your chips until they're cashed.

Two Great Men. There are two men in this country who deserve public recognition, and sooner or later will get it. They have done things tangible. They have done something more than "talk." They are each public benefactors, and should have a few flowers while they are still able to enjoy their fragrance and beauty. So, here are ours. We refer to Mr. H. C. Moore, Postmaster General of the United States, and to C. Lee Moore, Auditor of Virginia.

These two men are on the job. Mr. H. C. Moore has put into operation the great parcels post system, smoothly and successfully, all through this great country, without a jar, without delay or confusion. This scheme will be of more value in the way of convenience and economy to a greater number of people than any scheme of modern times. And incidentally and indirectly Mr. Moore has done for the express companies what the whole of Congress seemed unable to accomplish. He has built his monument.

State Auditor Moore has done a greater service to his State than any of his predecessors. He has gone after the tax-dodgers and careless, incompetent commissioners with gloves off, and unearthed hundreds of thousands of dollars of property heretofore withheld from taxation. In the County of Norfolk, according to The Times-Dispatch, there has recently been added to the taxable values of that county \$122,450, and Mr. Moore is still at it. In Richmond and other cities similar results have accrued through the untiring efforts of this "determined and courageous man."

These two men have done things—brought things to pass, and should have, and as a fact are having, commendations from all quarters. The one would make a fine President, the other a fine Governor. The Clinch Valley News flings these little bouquets to these worthy public servants, heartily and sincerely wishing them still greater success in their important positions.—Clinch Valley News.

The Joys of Old Age. Dr. J. B. Hodgkin, who is spending the winter in Urbana, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday Wednesday of this week. The doctor spoke of the occasion with gratitude, and says he enjoys excellent health. He is a man of decided literary taste and finds much enjoyment in the perusal of the best books, periodicals and papers. We wish the doctor many returns of his natal day.—Southside Sentinel.

New Shad and Soft Crabs. We chronicled that two weeks ago a soft crab had been found in Lancaster's waters. Now the report comes of catching shad on the Potomac. Virginia is bound to keep in the lead.—Virginia Citizen.

My Locket. With a little lock of hair, And the smiling vision Of my adored Lady Fair.

Just a little locket, But what it means to me! My shrine—my precious talisman—My comfort—all three.

Just a little locket, But when the day goes wrong, A peep into that locket Will fill the day with song.

And the 'you'll soon forget me, Will I forget you? Nay, I'll keep you in my locket Forever and for aye. Richmond. G. A.

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THE MARKETPLACE
RICHMOND
OF THE SOUTH



By PERCY SHAW
Beyond the whirl of biting snow
In one short flash his soul called
clear,
And rising in the vision's glow
Mother and boy smiled warm and
near.

VIEWS OF THE VIRGINIA EDITORS

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In fact, we invite visitors to make our banking rooms their down-town headquarters.

1111 East Main Street Richmond, Virginia

THE WORLD AT LARGE

A Habit With Undesirable Citizens.

We have heard the corruptionists of the old State prevailing, exposed by the press, denounce the newspapers; we have heard the St. Louis boulders who afterward wore stripes, denounce the newspapers; we have heard the dynamite murderers denounce the newspapers; we have heard William Lorimer denounce the newspapers before and after he was unseated in the United States Senate; we hear the police grafters now being exposed in New York, denounce the newspapers. But so long as the Constitutions of South Carolina and the United States stand as we have absolute faith in the liberty of the press prevailing, whatever attempts may be made to muzzle it. Neither assassins nor those politicians who flinch under the lash of public opinion will silence it.—Columbia (S. C.) State.

Reform the Reformer. Unless we have relief from the present urgency of improvement, we may expect, when the tariff has been fixed, and the interests and other familiar bad objects have been duly smitten, to see a concentration of all the available reformatory energies in the abatement of reform. In the way, indeed, that things coming dovetail unhappily in the current of the movement are already discernible. The trouble is that the contemporary people who want to improve life all seem to rush to governmental means. Time was when men like Moody and Saker used preaching and prayers and hymns for purposes of regeneration, as Whitfield and Wesley did in the case of other well-doers had done before them. But the hymn-book is not directed enough for our current needs. For them it is the statute book or nothing. They all reach out after universal righteousness by law, and are bound to encounter the immemorial revenges of that method. The objection to governmental means is that it is a use of the power and the money of all the people to do what some of them are especially great in doing, and when it is exceeded the recoil is certain.—New York Life.

Peroxide of Hydrogen. Within recent years no remedy has come into such general use as peroxide of hydrogen, the consumption of which has reached enormous proportions. In this section of the country there is an especially great demand for its use as a gargle for colds and catarrhs, as well as a toilet preparation. It is a fact that the peroxide of hydrogen is an addition of great value and widely varied product, and its sale should be closely supervised; that the manufacturer should be compelled to indicate on the label the use for which it is intended, and be required to stamp (as it deteriorates with age) the date of manufacture. In most makes of peroxide of hydrogen there is an addition of acetanilid, as a preservative. This is dangerous, and is said to be an unnecessary addition.—Indianapolis News.

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